received bid or said received offer to said network;

said network sending at least a third signal to said first workstation and at least a fourth signal to said second workstation, said at least third and said at least fourth signals indicating acknowledgement of said acknowledgement from said second workstation.

44. The system according to claim 43, wherein said at least third signal includes a first purchase confirmation signal and said at least fourth signal includes a second purchase confirmation signal.

45. The system according to claim 43, further comprising at least one storage node for recording the completion of a purchase relating to said bid or offer.

46. The system according to claim 43, wherein prior to the transmission of said first signal by the processor of said first workstation, the processor of said second workstation transmits said initial offer or initial bid to said network.

47. The system according to claim 46, said network generating and transmitting an acknowledgement of said initial bid or offer to said second workstation.

48. The system according to claim 43, said network generating and transmitting an acknowledgement of the receipt of said first signal.

49. The system according to claim 48, wherein said acknowledgement of the receipt of said first signal and said second signal indicative of said bid or offer are match notification signals generated by at least one computer in said network.

50. The system according to claim 43, wherein said second workstation further comprises:

a confirmation timer for measuring the time elapsed from said second workstation receiving said second signal until said second workstation receives said fourth signal; and

a storage unit for storing an indication that a purchase relating to said bid or offer was not completed upon the elapsed time measured by said confirmation timer exceeding a predetermined confirmation timeout period.

51. The system according to claim 50, wherein said second workstation further comprises:

a display for displaying that a late confirmation was received upon said second workstation receiving said fourth signal after said predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired for said purchase.

52. The system according to claim 43, wherein said network further comprises:

a computer for matching bids and offers from said workstations in accordance with predetermined matching criteria.

53. The system according to claim 52, further comprising:

an acknowledgement timer for measuring the time elapsed from reception of said first signal by said network from said first workstation until reception of said acknowledgement by said network from said second workstation;

a storage unit for storing an indication that a purchase was not acknowledged upon the elapsed time measured by said acknowledgment timer exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

54. A method for acknowledging the receipt signals relating to bids and offers in an

electronic trading system, said electronic trading system including a network and at least first and second workstations coupled to a network, the method comprising the steps of:

sending an offer or bid from the first workstation to the network in response to an initial bid or offer;

receiving the offer or bid from said network at the second workstation;

sending from the second workstation to said network an acknowledgment of the receipt of the offer or bid; and

sending from the network to the first and second workstations an indication that the network acknowledges the acknowledgment from said second workstation.

55. The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:

sending an initial bid or offer from the second workstation to the network; and

receiving an acknowledgment of the initial bid or offer from the network at the second workstation.

56. The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:

measuring an elapsed confirmation time from receiving the offer or bid from the network at the second workstation until the second work station receives from the network the indication that the network received the acknowledgment of the transaction from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the transaction is unconfirmed upon the measured elapsed confirmation time exceeding a predetermined confirmation timeout period.

57. The method according to claim 56, further comprising the step of: displaying at the

second workstation that a late confirmation was received, after the predetermined confirmation timeout period has expired, at the second workstation the indication that the network received the acknowledgment of the receipt of said bid or offer sent from the second workstation.

58. The method according to claim 54, further comprising the steps of:

measuring an elapsed acknowledgement time from receiving the offer or bid at the network from the first workstation until the network receives the acknowledgment from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the bid or offer transmitted to said second workstation is unacknowledged upon the measured elapsed acknowledgment time exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

59. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

receiving at a networked processor an offer or bid from a first workstation in response to an initial bid or offer;

sending the offer or bid from the networked processor to a second workstation;

receiving an acknowledgment of a transaction based on the offer or bid from the second workstation at the networked processor; and

sending from the networked processor to the first and second workstations an indication that the networked processor received the acknowledgment of the transaction.

60. The computer-readable medium of claim 59 having further computer-executable

instructions for performing the following steps:

receiving at the networked processor the initial bid or offer from the second workstation; and

sending an acknowledgment of the initial bid or offer from the networked processor to the second workstation.

61. The computer-readable medium of claim 60 having further computer-executable instructions for performing steps comprising:

measuring an elapsed acknowledgement time from receiving the offer or bid at the networked processor from the first workstation until the networked processor receives the acknowledgment of the receipt of the bid or offer from the second workstation; and

storing an indication that the receipt of the bid or offer is unacknowledged upon the measured elapsed acknowledgment time exceeding a predetermined acknowledgement timeout period.

62. A workstation participating in the exchange of signals, the signals including at least a bid and an offer, the workstation connected to a network, said network connected to at least a second workstation, said workstation comprising:

a receiver for receiving an initial offer or an initial bid;

a processor for processing said initial bid or offer;

an output for outputting a first signal to said network, said first signal signaling a bid or an offer in response to said initial offer or initial bid;

said receiver also receiving a second signal wherein said second signal indicates the acknowledgement of a receipt of said first signal by said second workstation.

63. A computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing steps associated with a purchase comprising a bid and an offer comprising:

transmitting to a network an offer or bid from a first workstation in response to a received initial bid or offer; and

receiving an acknowledgment from said network indicating that a workstation originating said initial bid or offer has acknowledged said transmitted offer or bid.

64. The computer readable medium according to claim 63, having further computer readable instructions comprising the step of:

processing said acknowledgement as an acceptance of said transmitted offer or bid.

65. The system according to claim 43, wherein said third signal and said fourth signal indicate that a transaction relating to said bid or said offer is complete.

66. The method according to claim 54, wherein the indication that the network acknowledges the acknowledgment from said second workstation signifies the completion of a transaction relating to said bid or offer. --.